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Identical letters dated 14 January 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I write this letter of complaint regarding a very serious incident of vital importance to the United Nations. Today, 14 January 2009, at least four Katyusha rockets were fired from Lebanese territory into Israel, with three of the rockets striking the area of Kiryat Shmona. One of the rockets fell short of Israeli territory and landed in Lebanon. This attack, and others like it, is designed to instil fear and terror among Israeli civilians. However, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) responded to the source of the fire in self-defence.

Today's attack is only the most visible and blatant violation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) since 8 January 2009, and the attack proves, once again, that terrorist groups remain active in southern Lebanon. Israel holds the Government of Lebanon and its military responsible for ensuring that its territory is not used for hostile activities against Israel, for taking all measures to prevent the smuggling of weapons into its territory and for fully implementing resolution 1701 (2006). In that vein, I wish to mention that this attack comes as United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) forces today dismantled three Grad-type rockets shortly before they were to be launched at Israel.

Additionally, today's rocket fire and discovery, the second incident in less than one week, requires UNIFIL to engage in robust action in order to discharge its mandate to establish in its area of operation an area free of any armed personnel, assets and weapons other than those of the Government of Lebanon and UNIFIL. As such, UNIFIL must conduct a thorough investigation and take the necessary steps to prevent a recurrence of this attack.

I wish to reiterate that Israel will take all necessary measures to protect its citizens from the escalating threat of terrorism.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter distributed as a document of the Security Council. An identical letter has been sent to Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations.

(*Signed*) Gabriela **Shalev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

09-21071 (E) 150109